



May, 2023

# *The Village Crier*

*A publication of the Strongsville Historical Society*

*www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org*

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## President's Message

It's summertime! After several years of being shut down due to the pandemic, we are making strides to get back to business as usual in 2023. May is when we do our annual cleanup of the Historical Village grounds to get ready for our tour season. This work had not been done for several years so the grounds became overgrown. This year, we were very thankful to have help from kids who are members of the Strongsville Middle School Career Connections program, Cub Scout Pack 157, Rotary Club of Strongsville, Schonhut Landscaping, Key Bank, and others. Take a walk through the village when you get the opportunity, the grounds are really starting to come together!

For Memorial Day this year, we started a new tradition with a Historical Village open house from noon to 2:00 pm following the Memorial Day parade and ceremony at the Freedom Trail. This was a huge success with terrific support from volunteers so we could have all buildings and all floors of buildings open to guests for the first time in several years! We estimate at least several hundred visitors toured the village, and we burned through materials for 200 crafts that kids could make in a craft tent while visiting the village. Many guests shared that they had lived in the area a long time, and this was the first time they had ever visited the village. We also handed out a good number of membership forms and had a number of people express an interest in wanting to join our volunteer ranks. We're looking forward to making this an annual tradition!

Mark your calendar for our annual yard sale on June 22nd and 23rd. This year, we're adding a twist, we're going to have a "Collector's Corner" where we segregate the true vintage and antique items from the other donated items that are more yard sale worthy. Please submit a Contact Us form if you have items to donate to the sale this year and we'll make arrangements for you to drop items off.

The Strongsville Town Center project should be breaking ground this summer and is expected to take 12-18 months to complete. The Historical Society is in ongoing conversation with the city to understand how this project may impact our surroundings. One welcome change is that the entrance to the Freedom Trail will be shifted so it aligns with the East entrance to our Historical Village to make things feel more connected for people who are walking on the pedestrian paths that will be available throughout the 80 acres between the Ehrnfelt Recreation Center and our Historical Village.

One final item for your calendars, Harvest Festival is on Saturday, September 30th this year from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Michelle Piech and others have done a great job lining up exhibitors, demonstrators and vendors so there should be a lot for visitors to see and do during their visit.

Have an enjoyable summer and we hope to see you at our events in the coming months!

*Scott Maloney*

# Come Back to the Olds General Store

It's time to renew your support for the Village and the Olds General Store. The store is open on the days the Village is open and on the days there are tours. And the store will be open during the yard sale.

You can still call Marty at 440-879-1092 for a private shopping experience at your convenience.

Items for graduation, weddings, Father's Day gifts, Strongsville books and prints,

Memento's for leaving home, and Christmas in July gifts are ready for the purchasing. Like shabby chic? Check out the retro items. Like fleece? Ours are half price. Like afghans? Ours are \$30. Like vintage or antique glass? We have lots. Check out the latest finds. Be sure to see the newest shipment of pottery made by Westerwald Pottery just for us.

All purchases are carefully wrapped and sent with you in our decorative bags.

## Lathrop House rentals

As you are looking for a location to hold a baby shower, bridal shower or small family gathering, look no further! Consider the Lathrop House at the Strongsville Historical Society. The location is not only very affordable at \$25 an hour for members or \$35 an hour for non-members, but it also takes the pressure off of hosting these events at your home. We offer a fully equipped kitchen to keep food warm or cold as well as tables and chairs that can be configured as you wish. There is also nice outdoor space that can be used weather permitting. If you are interested in this space for yourself or a family or friend, please reach out to Diann Jurcago, Rental Coordinator, at [strongvillehistoricalsocietyrentals@gmail.com](mailto:strongvillehistoricalsocietyrentals@gmail.com) or by phone at (440) 445-1886. I look forward to helping you plan that next event.

## Third Grade School Tours

The 3rd Grade School Tours 2023 has had a successful experience after a three year hiatus due to Covid 19. We used five museums on our tours with 18 members being docents to staff 45 different positions. All 3rd graders in Strongsville Elementary Schools plus St. John and Joseph participated. This year we had 484 students with over 45 adult chaperones and teachers participating.

We are grateful to have our members that helped us to "bring to life" the way Strongsville residents lived in the past. We celebrate 200 years in the Baldwin House. We believe in our mission to interpret the history of Strongsville through programs that inspire, stimulate and educate our community.

Participating members include: Vicki Maloney, Judy Gleason, Laura Schlegel, Jan Jamison, Jan Miller, Scott Maloney, Charlotte Schneider, Carol Conrad, Tom Drost, Sonia Reber, Marty Shaw, Mary Pultz, David Maloney, Elaine Cairns, Andrea Galassi, Wendy Steller, Pam McConnell and Jean Wittrock. Thank you.

Committee Chairs: Jean Wittrock, Laura Schlegel, Elaine Cairns

## Village Yard Sale

The Village annual yard sale will be on June 22nd and 23rd. Please bring your donations in the week before. There will be a special collections table. You will also have a chance to win one of the wonderful baskets this year. Please reach out to Grace Hardison with any questions. Grace Hardison - 440-862-1129 or [gmhdesign78@gmail.com](mailto:gmhdesign78@gmail.com).

# Upcoming Programs

**Tuesday, August 22nd, 7pm**

Strongsville Branch Library, Meeting Rooms A & B

**A Century of Cycling: the evolution of the bicycle over 100+ years**

Presented by Scott Maloney, President of Strongsville Historical Society and owner of Century Cycles

Join us for a fascinating presentation on the evolution of the bicycle over the past century and its impact on society! From the early days of the penny farthing to the sleek road bikes of today, we'll explore the technological advancements that have made cycling more efficient and accessible. Discover how the bicycle has played a key role in transportation, recreation, and even women's liberation. Don't miss this opportunity to gain a new perspective on this beloved mode of transportation!

Program presented by the Strongsville Historical Society in partnership with the Strongsville Branch Library. Registration is requested. Register by calling (440) 238-5530 or online at <https://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/8323827>

Presenter Scott Maloney has had a keen interest in bicycles since he first pulled them out of the trash as a nine-year-old, took them apart, and put them back together to learn how they worked. He got a job as a bike mechanic when he was 12 years old and worked for several bike shops until he graduated from college and went to work in Corporate America. Fast forward 30 years where Scott and Vicki decided they wanted to own their own business and Scott's love of bicycles came full circle by buying Century Cycles, a four-location bike dealership that has been serving the Northeast Ohio cycling community since 1992.

**Tuesday, October 17th, 7pm**

Strongsville Branch Library, Meeting Rooms A & B

**Lost Cemeteries of Cuyahoga County: Strongsville Edition**

Presented by William G. Krejci, author of *Buried Beneath Cleveland: Lost Cemeteries of Cuyahoga County*

The dead do not always rest in peace. Occasionally, they wind up in the backyard. As towns grew in Cuyahoga County during the late 1800s, many of its cemeteries were relocated to make room for urban sprawl. But not all of these graves made the journey.

Author William G. Krejci tracks down more than fifty displaced cemeteries throughout the Greater Cleveland area. Discover the Revolutionary War veterans, famous scientists and illustrious dignitaries found beneath gas stations and grocery stores in this eerie history of Cuyahoga County's forgotten dead.

The program being presented will share many of these incredible stories, but will also focus on those closer to Strongsville, including the long-forgotten Strongsville Baptist Church Burying Ground.

Program presented by the Strongsville Historical Society in partnership with the Strongsville Branch Library. Registration is requested. Register by calling (440) 238-5530 or online at <https://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/8580291>

Presenter William G. Krejci was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1975 and raised in the neighboring suburb of Avon Lake. With an interest in local history, he spends much of his time investigating urban legends and has served as the resident historian at Cleveland's famed Franklin Castle. He is the author of *Buried Beneath Cleveland: Lost Cemeteries of Cuyahoga County*, *Haunted Put-in-Bay*, *Ghosts and Legends of Northern Ohio*, *Lost Put-in-Bay*, *Lost Ghost Stories of Cleveland* (set for release in September 2023) and co-author of *Haunted Franklin Castle*. He is also the author of the *Jack Sullivan Mysteries* and has been a guest speaker at many historical societies, libraries, bookstores, public venues and civic groups. He's appeared as a guest on multiple paranormal-based television programs and has been featured on many local podcasts, television and radio programs. On weekends, he hosts ghost walks in Cleveland and in his free time, sings and plays guitar in an Irish band.

# Harvest Festival 2023

Mark your calendars for the Annual Harvest Festival! Come join us for our one day event, Saturday, September 30 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. We will again have many entertainers sharing their talents, demonstrators sharing their skills, the Old Fashioned Car parade, several children's activities, our food tent is back, and so much more! Take a step back in time visiting each of our Historic Buildings as you walk through the Village. Mark your calendar, don't miss out!

## With Deepest Sympathies

The Strongsville Historical Society received word of the following members having passed away since the beginning of 2023. Many of them gave generously of their time volunteering in a variety of capacities over their years of membership and we will all keep their families in our thoughts and prayers: Paul Hirt - January 4, 2023; Louise Varisco - March 13, 2023; Marilyn Todia - March 27, 2023; Ray Buschman - April 7, 2023.

## Calling All Volunteers!

We want YOU to help with the running of our Historical Society, or would love your help to find new volunteers for our organization. We're working hard to build up our ranks, here are ways people can join us to help:

- ◆ Collections - help with decisions about what to bring into our collections, and help with setting up and enhancing displays throughout the historical village.
- ◆ Grounds - we're looking for volunteers to sign up for various sections of the historic village to maintain garden spaces - weeding, pruning, edging, etc.
- ◆ Maintenance - we always have repair projects throughout the village to keep our buildings and grounds in shape.
- ◆ Historian - our historian is looking for volunteers to help with research requests, to help sort and catalog the many documents and photos in our archives, and to help with a project to digitize our holdings.
- ◆ Tours - we are looking to add more docents or tour guides to our ranks so we can work towards being open on more days during our open season for tours.

Please fill out a Contact Us form on our Historical Society website and let us know your interests!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 22 & 23 Village Yard Sale

Tuesday, August 22nd, 7pm- Strongsville Branch Library, Meeting Rooms A & B  
A Century of Cycling: the evolution of the bicycle over 100+ years

September 30 Harvest Festival

Tuesday, October 17th, 7pm- Strongsville Branch Library, Meeting Rooms A & B  
Lost Cemeteries of Cuyahoga County: Strongsville Edition

**Strongsville Historical Society**

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